

RESPONSE

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 11, 2005, Applicants elect Invention Group I, claims 1-6, drawn to a ferrule heating apparatus. Applicants also elect apparatus claims 9-10 because they depend from elected claim 2. Hence, the combined election is to claims 1-6 and 9-10.

The identification by the Examiner of claims 9-10 as belonging to Invention Group II is believed to be in error. Only claims 7-8 are directed to a method. To the extent required, the further election of claims 9-10 is to be deemed an election with traverse.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more timely divisional application(s) directed to the subject matter of non-elected claims.

This application should now be in order for consideration on the merits of the claims in the elected invention group, as Applicants have fully and completely responded to the Office Action by making the required election.

In the event there are any questions relating to this Response or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned agent concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000004.00679). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not accompany this Response or is insufficient to render this Response timely, the

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Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely. Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully submitted,

TSUGUO SATOH et al.

By: Michael D. White
Michael D. White
Reg. No. 32,795

CUSTOMER NO. 27557
BLANK ROME LLP
WATERGATE
600 NEW HAMPSHIRE AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20037
PHONE: (202) 772-5800
FAX: (202) 572-8398